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ISSUED: October 1991

PENNSYLVANIA'S

LABOR FORCE

..... A Monthly Statistical Analysis

SEPTEMBER 1991 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Pennsylvania's joblessness decreased in September, as the statewide rate of unemployment fell to 6.8 percent, seasonally adjusted, from 7.3 percent in August.**
- **Nonfarm jobs increased by 36,200 in September to a total of 5,157,900. They were about 48,700 below their level of September 1990.**

In August 1991 . . .

- **Average weekly earnings of production workers in Pennsylvania manufacturing industries rose to $467.16, as an average workweek increase of 0.5 hour outweighed an average hourly pay loss of 5 cents.**
- **The total number of initial claims and weeks claimed for unemployment compensation fell to 1991 lows.**
- **Unadjusted unemployment rates fell in 63 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties.**
- **Thirteen of Pennsylvania's fifteen major labor market areas had higher seasonally adjusted unemployment rates than in July.**

Special Interest Topic: Average Covered Wages

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LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Robert P. Casey, Governor

Department of Labor and Industry

Bureau of Research and Statistics

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
BUREAU OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

Pennsylvania's Labor Force . . . A Monthly Statistical Analysis

is published monthly by the Bureau of Research and Statistics.
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Inquiries can also be directed to Labor Market Analysts located throughout Pennsylvania.

The following is a list of Analysts and the counties they serve.

Analyst	Phone Number	Counties Served
Edward Murray	(215)560-1977 Philadelphia	Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia Counties in PA; Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester Counties in NJ
Kenneth Shockley	(215)378-4314 Reading	Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, Pike, Wayne, Schuylkill, Berks Counties in PA; Warren County, NJ
James Mowad	(717)963-3443 Scranton	Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Wyoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Bradford, Tioga
Fred Schneider Larry Baugher	(717)771-1272 York	Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry, Lancaster, Adams, York, Franklin, Fulton
Glenn Lynn	(717)327-3504 Williamsport	Centre, Lycoming, Potter, Juniata, Mifflin, Clinton, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, Union
William Findley Debra Nicholson	(814)533-2213 Johnstown	Blair, Cambria, Somerset, Bedford, Clearfield, Jefferson, Huntingdon, Elk, Cameron, Greene
William Ceriani Roberta Wilson	(412)565-5350 Pittsburgh	Beaver, Allegheny, Fayette, Washington, Westmoreland, Butler, Indiana, Armstrong, Lawrence
Carol Patterson	(814)871-4298 Erie	Erie, Mercer, McKean, Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Venango, Warren

CURRENT LABOR FORCE SITUATION

UNEMPLOYMENT FELL in September, cutting Pennsylvania's seasonally adjusted jobless rate to 6.8 percent from August's rate of 7.3 percent. The nation's rate declined to 6.7 percent in September from 6.8 percent in August.

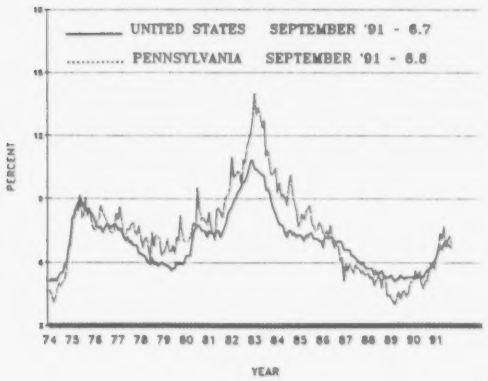
Data, made available through the Current Population Survey of households and released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, show September's unemployment in Pennsylvania, adjusted for seasonality, down 32,000 to 401,000. September's jobless rate, at 6.8 percent, returned to the low end of a broad band between 6.7 percent and 7.7 percent in which the rate has fluctuated since February. Compared to one year ago, the rate was up from 5.5 percent.

Employment, seasonally adjusted, was up 45,000 from August to 5,520,000 in September. This was 131,000 above the recession low in March of this year, or approximately midway between the recession low and the all-time high of March 1989. Employment has been climbing slowly as the economy attempts to recover, but has made little progress at lowering unemployment due to a sizeable increase in new jobseekers. Compared to one year ago, employment shows a relatively small loss of 29,000.

Although recovery of jobs has been very slow, two important measures suggest that more rapid growth may be imminent. As shown later in this report, the average manufacturing workweek is near pre-recession levels at 40.8 hours. Demand for goods has increased to the point where hiring may replace even longer workweeks (overtime). Also, excessive job losses from the recent recession are no longer occurring, as indicated by reduced numbers of workers filing new claims for unemployment insurance benefits.

Among the eleven largest states for which seasonally adjusted data are available, Pennsylvania's 6.8 percent rate of unemployment in September ranked sixth, down from fifth in August. Six states, including Pennsylvania, had rate decreases as the overall trend and the national rate were down. Three states had rate increases and two were unchanged.

UNITED STATES & PENNSYLVANIA
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)



RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
(in thousands)

	SEP. 1991	AUG. 1991	SEP. 1990	CHANGE FROM AUG. 1991	CHANGE FROM SEP. 1990
Civilian Labor Force	5,915	5,950	5,858	-35	57
Employment	5,542	5,566	5,561	-24	-19
Unemployment	373	384	297	-11	76
Rate of Unemp.	6.3%	6.5%	5.1%	-0.2	1.2
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					
Civilian Labor Force	5,921	5,908	5,870	13	51
Employment	5,520	5,475	5,549	45	-29
Unemployment	401	433	321	-32	80
Rate of Unemp.	6.8%	7.3%	5.5%	-0.5	1.3

PENNSYLVANIA'S JOBS

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

	SEP. 1991 AP/	AUG. 1991 P/	JUL. 1991	AUG. 1990	CHANGE FROM JUL. 1991	CHANGE FROM AUG. 1990
NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS	5,157.9	5,121.7	5,120.1	5,172.2	1.6	-50.5
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	1,233.0	1,238.1	1,228.0	1,294.6	10.1	-56.5
Mining	26.5	26.6	26.3	28.0	0.3	-1.4
Construction	233.2	236.9	234.9	248.7	2.0	-11.8
Manufacturing	973.3	974.6	966.8	1,017.9	7.8	-43.3
Durable Goods	540.9	542.4	540.2	575.4	2.2	-33.0
Lumber and Wood		28.9	28.9	31.7	0.0	-2.8
Furniture and Fixtures		17.9	17.7	19.7	0.2	-1.8
Stone, Clay, and Glass		43.9	43.8	47.2	0.1	-3.3
Primary Metals		82.9	82.9	90.5	0.0	-7.6
Fabricated Metals		83.9	83.4	88.9	0.5	-5.0
Industrial Machinery		101.0	101.1	106.9	-0.1	-5.9
Electric and Electronic Equipment		77.8	76.4	80.1	1.4	-2.3
Transportation Equipment		48.9	48.3	51.1	0.6	-2.2
Instruments and Related		37.6	37.6	39.4	0.0	-1.8
Miscellaneous Manufacturing		19.6	20.1	19.9	-0.5	-0.3
Nondurable Goods	432.4	432.2	426.6	442.5	5.6	-10.3
Food and Kindred		90.1	88.2	90.2	1.9	-0.1
Tobacco		1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Textile Mill		26.6	26.2	28.3	0.4	-1.7
Apparel and Other Textiles		66.3	63.9	70.3	2.4	-4.0
Paper and Allied		40.1	39.8	40.7	0.3	-0.6
Printing and Publishing		83.5	83.4	85.4	0.1	-1.9
Chemicals and Allied		62.0	62.2	62.2	-0.2	-0.2
Petroleum and Coal		11.9	11.9	11.7	0.0	0.2
Rubber and Plastics		42.4	41.8	43.3	0.6	-0.9
Leather		8.2	8.1	9.3	0.1	-1.1
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	3,921.0	3,882.5	3,890.8	3,875.7	-8.3	6.8
Transportation	166.3	160.1	159.0	157.5	1.1	2.6
Public Utilities	105.9	105.5	105.6	106.0	-0.1	-0.5
Communications		51.6	51.6	50.4	0.0	1.2
Electric, Gas and Sanitary		53.9	54.0	55.6	-0.1	-1.7
Wholesale Trade	273.0	274.3	274.4	279.8	-0.1	-5.5
Retail Trade	905.4	904.5	902.4	904.3	2.1	0.2
General Merchandise Stores		116.8	116.0	115.9	0.8	0.9
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	302.5	305.3	304.8	303.7	0.5	1.6
Finance		142.3	141.8	142.4	0.5	-0.1
Insurance		118.8	118.4	117.1	0.4	1.7
Real Estate		44.2	44.6	44.2	-0.4	0.0
Services	1,492.9	1,487.9	1,491.2	1,461.2	-3.3	26.7
Business		213.2	213.5	213.1	-0.3	0.1
Health		493.2	492.7	478.1	0.5	15.1
Hospitals		265.6	265.5	256.8	0.1	8.8
Legal		43.3	43.8	42.8	-0.5	0.5
Educational		131.6	134.3	130.5	-2.7	1.1
Social		108.7	108.4	104.0	0.3	4.7
Other		497.9	498.5	492.7	-0.6	5.2
Government	675.0	644.9	653.4	663.2	-8.5	-18.3
Federal		135.3	136.4	142.8	-1.1	-7.5
State		139.2	139.2	145.5	0.0	-6.3
Local		370.4	377.8	374.9	-7.4	-4.5
PERSONS IN LABOR-MGMT. DISPUTES	3.9	1.1	1.3	1.9	-0.2	-0.8

AP/= Advance preliminary, based on early survey returns.
P/= Preliminary data, used to compute "change from" columns.
Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

JOBS ROSE 36,200 in September, about twice the seasonally expected pace, according to advance preliminary data from the monthly survey of employer payrolls. Total nonagricultural wage and salary jobs increased to 5,157,900, but remained 48,700 under the September 1990 total.

Goods-producing jobs declined seasonally by 5,100 from September with net gains only in nondurables, and were 52,300 fewer than a year ago. Service-producing sector jobs were up 38,500 from September and 3,200 from a year ago. September seasonal gains in government, transportation and services outweighed losses in wholesale trade and finance, insurance and real estate.

JOBS INCREASED by 1,600 from July to 5,121,700 in August. This gain was about one-third of the seasonal norm and follows a month in which the loss was greater than expected. This does not mean that the recession is yet to end -- merely that job levels, considered a coincidental indicator by most economists, are not the best guage to determine if a recession has ended. Jobs will likely follow a somewhat erratic path over the next several months as sustained substantial hiring may be several months down the road. Management is yet to be convinced that the recession has ended. Nonagricultural wage and salary jobs this August were down 50,500 from August 1990.

The monthly nonfarm job count excludes farm workers, the self-employed, domestic workers and unpaid family workers.

Goods-producing industries provided 1,238,100 jobs in August, a rise of 10,100 from July. Manufacturing, up 7,800, accounted for over three-fourths of this net gain. Construction firms added 2,000 to their payrolls while mining provided 300 new jobs -- all in coal as stockpiles must be replenished before winter's increased demand. Goods-producers had 56,500 fewer jobs this August than a year before. All three segments shared in this loss.

After falling to a record low of 966,800 in July, Pennsylvania factory jobs rose to 974,600 in August. This gain was about 1,000 more than the seasonal norm. However, the recent manufacturing job count was still the fifth lowest on record and 43,300 under that of August 1990.

It will be hard to obtain a true picture of what is going on in the manufacturing sector over the next several months. The hiring of "temporary workers" from employment agencies has become a much more common practice in recent years. This practice has two main advantages for employers. It reduces the overall cost of hiring new employes and allows them to screen prospective "permanent" employes. Thus, some manufacturing jobs will probably appear in the business service industry.

Jobs in the service-producing sector fell by 8,300 from July to August -- about two and one-half times the seasonal norm. Much heavier than expected losses in local government and the services division were key here. However, jobs in services were at their third highest level ever in August -- trailing only July and June of this year. The brightest spot in the service-producing sector was an increase of 500 jobs in finance, insurance and real estate which brought this industry to its second consecutive all-time high. Service-producers gained 6,800 jobs over the year.

EMPLOYERS

Looking for workers for employe training that's specific to your business? Then you're looking for the Pennsylvania Job Center near you; where employers find the employes they need, and workers find the jobs they want.

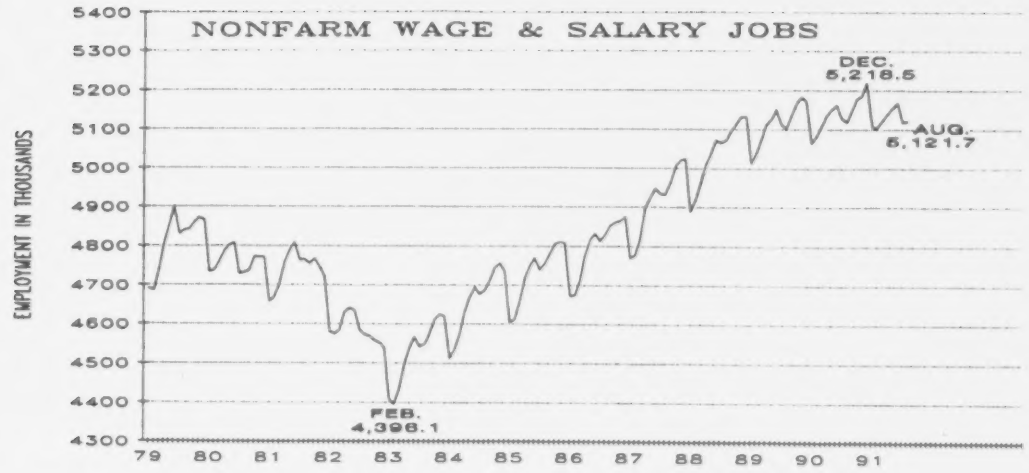
For a working future, this is the place.

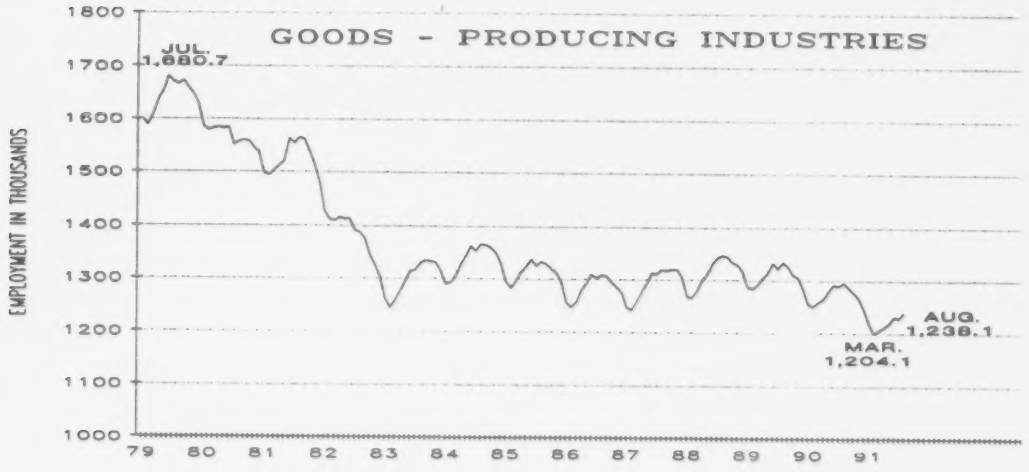
For the Job Center near you call:

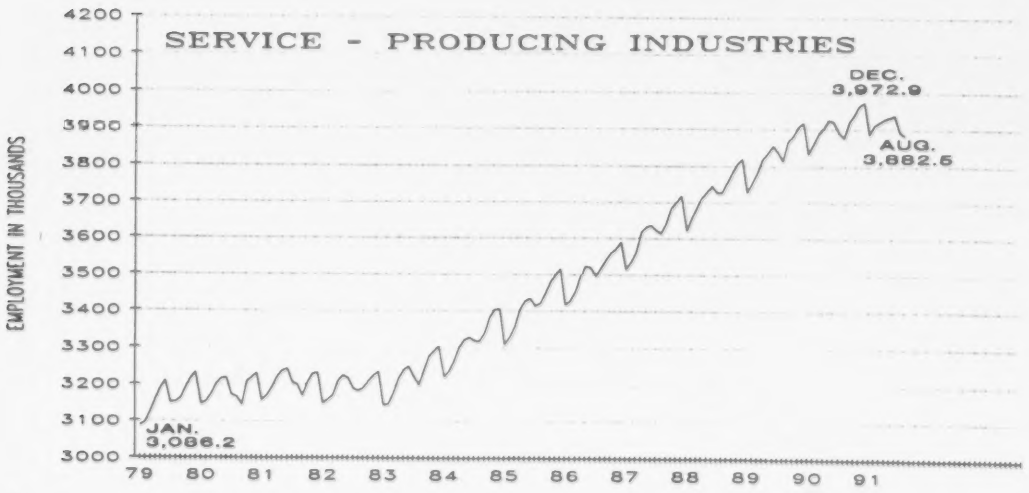
1-800-622-JOBS

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT

in Pennsylvania







MONTH AND YEAR

ESTABLISHMENT PRODUCTION WORKERS' HOURS AND EARNINGS

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	AUG. 1991 P/	JUL. 1991	AUG. 1990	AUG. 1991 P/	JUL. 1991	AUG. 1990	AUG. 1991 P/	JUL. 1991	AUG. 1990
Coal Mining	$726.00	$713.84	$741.70	44.0	43.5	44.6	$16.50	$16.41	$16.63
Nonmetallic Minerals	565.95	534.89	517.11	47.8	45.6	45.4	11.84	11.73	11.39
Manufacturing	467.16	463.45	449.33	40.8	40.3	40.7	11.45	11.50	11.04
Durable Goods	504.19	500.17	484.64	41.6	41.2	41.6	12.12	12.14	11.65
Lumber and Wood	380.16	373.12	365.24	39.6	39.4	39.7	9.60	9.47	9.20
Furniture and Fixtures	397.31	398.21	378.02	41.3	40.8	41.0	9.62	9.76	9.22
Stone, Clay, and Glass	497.70	481.85	487.05	42.0	40.8	42.5	11.85	11.81	11.46
Primary Metals	589.36	582.47	568.43	42.8	42.3	42.9	13.77	13.77	13.25
Fabricated Metals	475.27	469.12	458.43	41.4	40.9	41.6	11.48	11.47	11.02
Industrial Machinery	529.62	525.01	515.89	42.1	41.9	42.6	12.58	12.53	12.11
Electric and Electronic Equipment	468.29	465.25	446.45	41.7	41.1	41.3	11.23	11.32	10.81
Transportation Equipment	587.70	588.35	536.11	41.3	41.0	39.8	14.23	14.35	13.47
Instruments and Related	472.28	485.55	464.53	40.4	41.5	41.0	11.69	11.70	11.33
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	454.72	444.21	437.40	40.6	39.0	39.8	11.20	11.39	10.99
Nondurable Goods	422.28	417.20	403.69	39.8	39.1	39.5	10.61	10.67	10.22
Food and Kindred	464.39	450.60	448.63	40.7	39.7	40.6	11.41	11.35	11.05
Tobacco	295.89	275.49	281.11	40.7	39.3	40.8	7.27	7.01	6.89
Textile Mill	327.06	320.71	315.15	39.5	38.5	39.1	8.28	8.33	8.06
Apparel and Other Textiles	248.16	246.75	234.88	35.3	35.0	34.9	7.03	7.05	6.73
Paper and Allied	515.57	508.57	496.22	43.0	42.1	43.3	11.99	12.08	11.46
Printing and Publishing	458.23	449.16	443.51	38.8	38.0	38.6	11.81	11.82	11.49
Chemicals and Allied	578.12	599.13	562.80	43.5	43.7	42.0	13.29	13.71	13.40
Petroleum and Coal	696.57	703.72	661.00	43.4	43.9	42.7	16.05	16.03	15.48
Rubber and Plastics	417.17	407.32	411.46	41.1	39.7	41.9	10.15	10.26	9.82
Leather	307.93	297.05	272.13	41.5	41.2	38.6	7.42	7.21	7.05
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES									
Communications	600.16	598.98	603.62	38.3	39.2	41.6	15.67	15.28	14.51
Electric, Gas, and Sanitary	731.84	725.87	680.69	43.1	42.9	42.2	16.98	16.92	16.13

P/ = Preliminary data.
Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

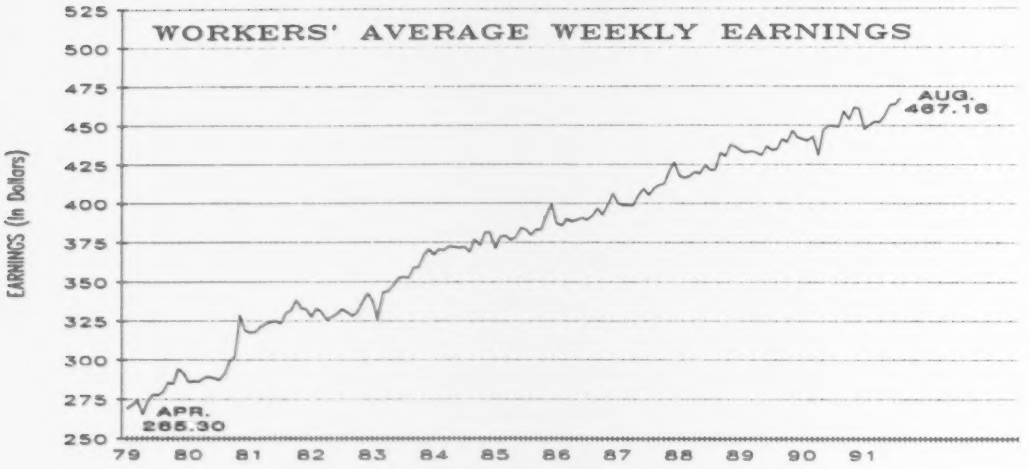
A NEW RECORD HIGH average weekly pay was earned in August by Pennsylvania's factory production workers for the second consecutive month. August's average, at $467.16, was up $3.71 from July. A gain of 0.5 hour in the average workweek outweighed a loss of 5 cents in average hourly pay. August earnings were up $17.83, or 4.0 percent, from one year earlier, the combined result of gains of 0.1 hour in the average workweek and 41 cents in average hourly pay.

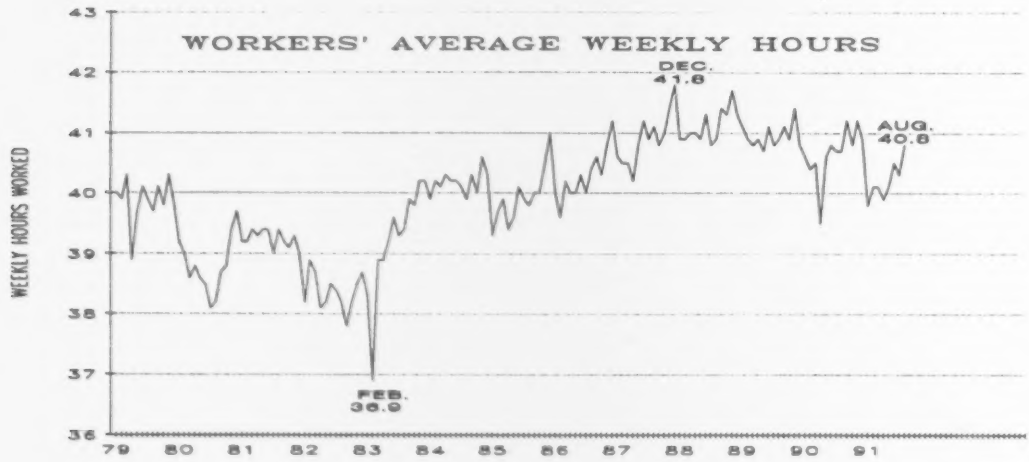
At 40.8 hours in August, the average workweek was at its highest level since last December's 40.9 hours. Increased hours come as no surprise as employers opt to extend their workweek rather than hire new workers until they are sure the recession is over. Thus, further increases in the workweek can be expected over the next few months. Compounding this analysis, however, is the hiring of temporary workers through temporary employment service agencies. This results in shorter workweeks, higher average pay and smaller payrolls than would be recorded if these workers were reported on manufacturing payrolls rather than in the business service sector.

Both durable and nondurable goods industries recorded longer August than July workweeks. The durable goods workweek gained 0.4 of an hour to 41.6 hours. Nine of the ten "hard goods" lines had substantially longer August workweeks. Only instruments, down 1.1 hours over the month, had a shorter August workweek. Nondurable, or "soft goods" industries, registered an even bigger over-the-month hours gain, 0.7 hour, to 39.8 hours. Eight of the ten soft goods industries worked more hours in August than July. Only chemicals and petroleum and coal products, the two nondurable goods industries with the longest workweeks (more than 43 hours), worked shorter hours in August.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION

in Pennsylvania





UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

REGULAR PROGRAM ACTIVITY

	AUG. 1991	JUL. 1991	AUG. 1990	CHANGE FROM JUL. 1991	CHANGE FROM AUG. 1990
CLAIMS ACTIVITY					
Initial Claims	**87,688**	123,194	87,454	-35,506	234
Weeks Claimed	**732,456**	911,999	596,478	-179,543	135,978
...Average Weekly Volume	**166,467**	198,261	129,669	-31,794	36,798
Insured Unemployment Rate	**3.4%**	4.1%	2.7%	-0.7	0.7
PAYMENT ACTIVITY					
First Payments	**34,392**	47,622	31,597	-13,230	2,795
Final Payments	**17,952**	18,178	10,584	-226	7,368
Weeks Paid	**751,575**	761,214	587,891	-9,639	163,684
Net Benefit Amount	**$133,092,970**	$137,161,674	$96,182,216	-$4,068,704	$36,910,754
Average Check	**$177.09**	$180.19	$163.61	-$3.10	$13.48

CLAIMS DROPPED to 1991 lows in August. Initial claims fell by 35,506 or 29 percent from July, and weeks claimed by 179,543 or 20 percent. Compared to August 1990, initial claims were up a slight 234, but weeks claimed were 23 percent higher. The insured unemployment rate dropped to 3.4 percent in August.

First payments at 34,392 were down by 13,230 from July, but final payments in August dropped only 226. Final payments totaled 110,838 from January through August 1991, 2,440 more than for all of 1990.

The average weekly check fell for the second consecutive month to $177.09 in August, a $3 drop from July and the lowest so far in 1991. The average check has usually been its lowest of the year in August.

Net benefits dropped by $4 million from July to $133 million. That was almost $37 million more than paid in August 1990.

During August, income to the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund exceeded disbursements by $74 million. Quarterly unemployment compensation contributions receipts tend to peak and fund interest is usually posted in the middle month of each quarter, as happened in August.

Cash reserves increased to $1.44 billion at the end of August. However, the balance was $361 million lower than a year ago, reflecting the impact of the recession which began in late 1990.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TRUST FUND ACTIVITY

BALANCES
1986 - 1991
(Dollars in Millions)

AUGUST 1991		
Income	$	206,881,753
Disbursements	$	133,085,879
Cash Reserves	$	1,437,245,953

UNEMPLOYMENT ... A GEOGRAPHIC VIEW

UNEMPLOYMENT rates fell during August in 63 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. Three rates were higher and one was unchanged. While unemployment rates were generally down, this is not a time for euphoria. Most of these rate drops were less than is expected from July to August. As evidence of this fact, the statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 0.3 of a percentage point higher in August than in July. (A seasonally adjusted change of zero would indicate a normally expected change in the unadjusted rate. In order to indicate improvement, the adjusted rate would have to drop.) Seasonally adjusted rates are not available for most counties.

For the first time since July 1990, Chester County did not have the lowest unemployment rate in the state. Both Cumberland and Lebanon Counties had lower August rates than did Chester County. The highest August unemployment rate was 11.5 percent in Greene County which is susceptible to the sluggishness of the coal mining industry.

The largest unemployment rate decrease was recorded in Cameron County where the rate was more than halved with a drop of 6.4 percentage points to a level of 6.1 percent. Wyoming County recorded the largest over-the-month increase -- up 0.4 of a percentage point to 8.1 percent.

AUGUST RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

- 4.4 to 6.0
- 6.1 to 7.0
- 7.1 to 8.2
- 8.3 to 11.5

COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RANKING

	AUGUST 1991 P/ RANK	RATE	VOLUME	JULY RATE	DIFF.
Cumberland	1	4.4	5,000	4.9	-0.5
Lebanon	2	4.6	3,000	5.7	-1.1
Chester	3	4.7	9,500	4.8	-0.1
Lancaster	4	4.8	11,000	5.0	-0.2
Montgomery	4	4.8	18,800	5.2	-0.4
Fulton	6	5.0	300	7.3	-2.3
Allegheny	7	5.1	34,300	5.3	-0.2
Snyder	8	5.2	1,000	6.0	-0.8
Montour	9	5.3	400	6.8	-1.5
Dauphin	10	5.4	7,500	5.6	-0.2
Delaware	10	5.4	15,600	5.7	-0.3
Adams	12	5.5	2,200	6.0	-0.5
York	12	5.5	10,100	6.3	-0.8
Centre	14	5.6	3,800	6.1	-0.5
Northampton	15	5.7	6,800	6.6	-0.9
Berks	16	5.9	10,400	6.9	-1.0
Franklin	17	6.0	3,700	7.1	-1.1
Westmoreland	17	6.0	10,600	6.8	-0.8
Cameron	19	6.1	200	12.5	-6.4
Warren	19	6.1	1,400	6.6	-0.5
Wayne	19	6.1	1,400	7.4	-1.3
Washington	22	6.3	6,000	6.5	-0.2
Bradford	23	6.4	2,100	6.6	-0.2
Bucks	23	6.4	19,500	7.1	-0.7
Butler	25	6.5	5,000	7.0	-0.5
Columbia	25	6.5	2,100	9.4	-2.9
Erie	25	6.5	8,800	6.8	-0.3
Lehigh	25	6.5	10,000	7.2	-0.7
Perry	29	6.8	1,500	7.1	-0.3
Potter	30	6.9	600	7.8	-0.9
Tioga	30	6.9	1,300	8.4	-1.5
Lycoming	32	7.0	4,100	7.8	-0.8
Mercer	33	7.1	3,800	7.3	-0.2
Pike	34	7.2	1,100	7.4	-0.2
Union	34	7.2	1,200	7.6	-0.4
Lawrence	36	7.3	3,500	7.3	0.0
Jefferson	37	7.4	1,500	8.3	-0.9
Monroe	37	7.4	3,700	8.0	-0.6
Blair	39	7.5	4,700	8.8	-1.3
Lackawanna	40	7.6	8,500	9.0	-1.4
McKean	40	7.6	1,600	8.6	-1.0
Venango	40	7.6	1,900	8.2	-0.6
Somerset	43	7.7	2,600	8.8	-1.1
Forest	44	7.8	100	8.9	-1.1
Mifflin	45	8.1	1,800	8.9	-0.8
Philadelphia	45	8.1	59,500	8.4	-0.3
Wyoming	45	8.1	1,100	7.7	0.4
Juniata	48	8.2	800	8.8	-0.6
Crawford	49	8.3	3,300	9.2	-0.9
Clarion	50	8.4	1,400	8.8	-0.4
Susquehanna	50	8.4	1,500	8.4	0.0
Elk	52	8.5	1,500	10.9	-2.4
Fayette	52	8.5	5,100	8.6	-0.1
Luzerne	52	8.5	13,900	9.3	-0.8
Cambria	55	8.6	5,800	9.1	-0.5
Carbon	55	8.6	2,200	11.7	-3.1
Schuylkill	55	8.6	6,300	10.7	-2.1
Bedford	58	8.8	2,000	10.9	-2.1
Sullivan	59	9.2	300	9.0	0.2
Clinton	60	9.3	1,400	9.5	-0.2
Northumberland	61	9.4	4,600	11.5	-2.1
Armstrong	62	9.5	2,700	10.2	-0.7
Beaver	63	9.7	5,800	10.1	-0.4
Huntingdon	64	9.9	1,800	13.1	-3.2
Clearfield	65	10.6	3,700	11.7	-1.1
Indiana	65	10.6	3,700	11.8	-1.2
Greene	67	11.5	1,500	12.4	-0.9

P/ = Preliminary data.
Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA UNEMPLOYMENT
(in thousands)

	AUG. 1991 P/ VOLUME	AUG. 1991 P/ RATE	JUL. 1991 VOLUME	JUL. 1991 RATE	AUG. 1990 VOLUME	AUG. 1990 RATE
United States	8,488.0	6.8%	8,501.0	6.8%	7,015.0	5.6%
Pennsylvania	433.0	7.3	418.0	7.0	298.0	5.1
Labor Market Area						
Allentown-Bethlehem MSA	24.5	7.2	24.2	7.1	17.8	5.4
Altoona MSA	5.7	9.2	5.5	8.9	4.0	6.6
Beaver County PMSA	6.5	10.8	6.0	10.0	4.1	7.0
Erie MSA	10.2	7.5	9.7	7.1	6.8	5.1
Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle MSA	18.9	5.7	18.7	5.6	14.2	4.3
Johnstown MSA	9.3	9.3	8.9	9.0	6.5	6.8
Lancaster MSA	12.7	5.6	11.1	4.9	8.9	4.0
Philadelphia PMSA	165.2	6.7	161.6	6.6	104.7	4.3
Pittsburgh PMSA	63.3	6.4	60.0	6.0	43.4	4.4
Reading MSA	12.2	6.9	12.1	6.9	9.0	5.2
Scranton--Wilkes-Barre MSA	33.4	9.1	32.1	8.7	23.2	6.5
Sharon MSA	4.0	7.6	3.8	7.2	2.3	4.5
State College MSA	4.4	6.4	4.2	6.1	3.5	5.3
Williamsport MSA	4.9	8.3	4.9	8.2	4.4	7.4
York MSA	13.5	6.0	14.2	6.3	10.7	4.9

P/ = Preliminary data.
Note: Data are seasonally adjusted.

HIGHER UNEMPLOYMENT rates were registered during August in thirteen of Pennsylvania's fifteen major labor market areas. The York Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), where the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped by 0.3 percentage point from July to 6.0 percent, was the only area to record a lower rate in August. This drop reflected an overall decrease in unemployment claims from a broad spectrum of industries. The Beaver County Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA), up 0.8 percentage point to 10.8 percent, recorded the largest over-the-month rate increase which was centered, atypically for this area, in the service-producing sector rather than goods-producing -- much of it in government.

Beaver County's 10.8 percent rate was also the highest seasonally adjusted rate for August. This is typical for this area which has never fully recovered from the decline of its steel industry in the early 1980's recession. The lowest August rate was 5.6 percent in the Lancaster MSA. This is also a normal situation. With its well-balanced economy, the Lancaster MSA usually has the lowest unemployment rate of any major labor market in the state. Nonetheless, the seasonally adjusted August unemployment rate for the Lancaster MSA was up 0.7 percentage point from July.

The August seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for all of Pennsylvania's 15 major labor market areas were higher than those for August 1990. The Beaver County PMSA recorded the largest over-the-year increase -- 3.8 percentage points. Losses in a broad spectrum of industries were responsible for this economic decline. The Williamsport MSA, which was already at a relatively high rate in August 1990, recorded the smallest increase -- up 0.9 per-

SERVICE DELIVERY AREA LABOR FORCE
(in thousands)

SDA NO.	COUNTIES	AUGUST 1991 P/ LABOR FORCE	EMP.	UNEMPLOYMENT VOLUME	RATE
01	Erie	135.6	126.9	8.8	6.5
02	Clarion, Crawford, Forest, Venango, Warren	106.9	98.7	8.2	7.7
03	City of Pittsburgh	175.9	166.5	9.4	5.4
04	Allegheny County minus City of Pittsburgh	493.8	468.9	24.9	5.0
05	Beaver	60.0	54.2	5.8	9.7
06	Armstrong, Butler, Indiana	141.3	129.8	11.5	8.1
07	Fayette, Westmoreland	237.5	221.7	15.7	6.6
08	Greene, Washington	108.4	100.8	7.6	7.0
09	Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, Potter	105.0	96.0	9.0	8.6
10	Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset	211.9	194.6	17.3	8.2
11	Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, Snyder, Union	232.3	216.9	15.4	6.6
13	Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wyoming	85.0	78.8	6.2	7.3
14	Lackawanna	111.4	102.9	8.5	7.6
15	Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Wayne	114.2	105.8	8.5	7.4
16	Luzerne, Schuylkill	237.0	216.8	20.2	8.5
17	Philadelphia	738.8	679.3	59.5	8.1
18	Bucks	302.6	283.1	19.5	6.4
19	Montgomery	388.5	369.7	18.8	4.8
20	Delaware	291.8	276.2	15.6	5.4
21	Chester	200.8	191.2	9.5	4.7
22	Lehigh, Northampton	273.4	256.5	16.8	6.2
23	Berks	175.4	164.9	10.4	5.9
24	Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lebanon, Perry	349.5	331.7	17.9	5.1
25	Lancaster	229.1	218.1	11.0	4.8
26	York	185.3	175.2	10.1	5.5
27	Adams, Franklin	101.1	95.2	5.9	5.8
28	Lawrence, Mercer	100.9	93.6	7.2	7.2
29	Montour, Northumberland	56.7	51.7	5.0	8.8
	PENNSYLVANIA - TOTAL	**5950.0**	**5566.0**	**384.0**	**6.5**

A Service Delivery Area is a geographical planning region defined by the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA).

P/ = Preliminary data.

Note: Data not seasonally adjusted.

SPECIAL INTEREST TOPIC

AVERAGE COVERED WAGES IN 1990

Average annual pay for Pennsylvania workers covered by state or federal unemployment compensation programs was $23,457 in 1990, a 5.1 percent increase over 1989. Nationally, average pay increased 4.6 percent from 1989 to $23,602 in 1990. Over the last ten years, Pennsylvania's average pay level and growth rate have been relatively close to the national averages.

Pennsylvania's 1990 average pay ranked 12th in the nation of the 50 states and District of Columbia. It was below that of four neighboring states: New York and New Jersey, ranked 4th and 5th, respectively, and Maryland and Delaware, with slightly higher averages than Pennsylvania, but above that of Ohio and West Virginia. Our state growth in annual pay ranked 9th highest, tied with California and Oregon at 5.1 percent.

Pennsylvania's private industry wage average in 1990 was $23,060, a gain of 4.8 percent from 1989, compared with the nation's $23,258 average and 4.4 percent gain. Pay in government jobs was higher in the state than nationally, at $26,014 versus $25,361.

Among the major industry divisions in Pennsylvania, the mining industry had the highest 1990 average pay, $35,055. Next highest were workers in transportation, communications and public utilities, at $30,664. Lowest average pay was for workers in retail trade ($12,122). The highest rate of growth was by 7.0 percent for government workers; the least growth was 3.7 percent in the construction industry.

Average Annual Pay of Covered Workers in 1990 1/

Industry	PA	US	% Change from 1989 PA	% Change from 1989 US
TOTAL, All Industries	$23,457	$23,602	5.1	4.6
Private				
Total	23,060	23,258	4.8	4.4
Mining	35,055	37,149	5.8	3.8
Construction	27,374	26,150	3.7	3.7
Manufacturing	28,459	28,881	4.4	4.1
Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities	30,664	30,034	5.3	3.9
Wholesale Trade	29,127	30,034	4.0	4.9
Retail Trade	12,122	12,709	4.1	3.5
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	27,846	29,683	6.4	4.9
Services	21,830	22,006	6.1	6.0
Government	26,014	25,361	7.0	5.3

1/Preliminary data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data are compiled from reports submitted by employers under unemployment insurance programs. Averages are derived by dividing total annual payrolls of covered employers by their average monthly employment.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Civilian Labor Force - Estimated number of persons 16 years of age and over, employed or unemployed during week including 12th of month, distributed by place of residence.

Total Employed - Includes nonagricultural wage and salary workers, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agricultural workers, and persons involved in labor disputes. Employment distributed by place of residence.

Total Unemployed - Estimated number of persons, by place of residence, who did not work during reference week and were looking for work, whether or not eligible for unemployment compensation. Includes those who did not work and were waiting to be called back to an old job or to report to a new job.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment

Collection - Nonagricultural wage and salary employment as well as hours and earnings estimates based on monthly reports from sample of employers. Under cooperative arrangement with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Research & Statistics of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, mails, edits, and processes reports, which are subsequently incorporated in national data.

Industrial Classification - Employer establishments classified by industry on basis of their principal product or service. The Standard Industrial Classification Manual (U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C., 1987) used for classification.

Nonagricultural Employment - A count of jobs by place of work. Includes persons on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation. Excluded are persons laid off, on strike, or on unpaid vacation during entire reporting period. Proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers also excluded. Government employment covers only civilian employes. Full-time teachers considered employed during the summer vacation period, whether or not paid in those months.

Benchmark Data - Employment estimates compared annually with complete count of employment, by industry. Where revisions necessary, monthly estimates adjusted to new benchmark. Following revisions to new benchmark, industry data projected forward to current month by use of sample trends. Basic source of benchmark information is tabulations of employment data, by industry and area, compiled from contribution reports of employers covered under Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Law.

Hours and Earnings

Method of Computing Averages - Average hours computed by dividing total production worker hours worked during one week (the seven-day period which includes 12th of month) by number of production workers for week. Average hourly earnings computed by dividing total production worker payroll for one week by total production worker hours for week. Average weekly earnings derived by multiplying average hourly earnings by average weekly hours.

Definitions - Definitions of production or similar workers, payroll, and hours - from which average hours and earnings data are derived - follow:

Production Workers - Includes working supervisors and all nonsupervisory workers (including group leaders and trainees) engaged in fabricating, processing, assembling, inspection, receiving, storage, handling, packing, warehousing, shipping, maintenance, repair, janitorial and guard services, product development, auxiliary production for plant's own use (such as power plant), and record keeping and other services closely associated with production operations.

Payroll - Represents payroll for full- and part-time production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers who received pay for any part of pay periods which include 12th of month. Payroll is reported before deductions for Social Security, group insurance, withholding tax, bonds, and union dues; also includes pay for overtime, holidays, vacations, and sick leave paid directly by the firm.

Hours - Represents hours worked or paid, during pay periods which include 12th of month, for production, construction, or nonsupervisory workers. Hours include time paid for holidays and vacations, and for sick leave when pay received directly from firm.

Unemployment Compensation

Initial Claims - Notices of unemployment filed to request a determination of entitlement to compensation in a new benefit year (period of eligibility) following a period of employment or to begin a second or subsequent period of eligibility within the benefit year following interim employment within the benefit year.

Weeks Claimed - Requests for benefits filed by claimants which certify to the fact the claimants experienced total, partial, or part-total unemployment for given weeks.

Average Weekly Claims - Total number of weeks claimed in a month divided by the number of weeks in the month.

Insured Unemployment Rate (IUR) - Ratio of the average weekly number of persons claiming unemployment compensation benefits within the given month to average annual covered employment. Calculated by dividing the month's average weekly continued weeks claimed by average annual covered employment. Average annual covered employment is estimated until six months after year's end due to a lag in reporting covered employment.

First Payment - First benefit check a claimant receives for a week of unemployment in a benefit year.

Weeks Paid - Weeks claimed which were paid to eligible claimants upon certification that unemployment compensation qualifying unemployment was experienced during given weeks.

Net Benefit Amount - Amount of regular unemployment compensation benefits paid to claimants, after adjusting for returned and redeposited benefit checks.

Income - Amount of funds deposited into the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including employer and employe contributions, transfers from other sources such as the Special Administration Fund, redeposited unemployment compensation checks, federal benefit program reimbursements, loans, and interest earnings.

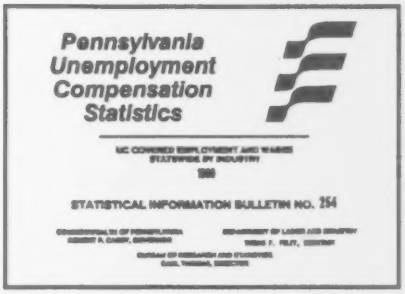
Disbursements - Amount of funds disbursed from the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund for the current month including the payment of state unemployment compensation benefits, federal program benefits, refunds, and voluntary federal loan repayments.

Cash Reserves - Amount of funds available in the State's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund available to pay unemployment compensation benefits.

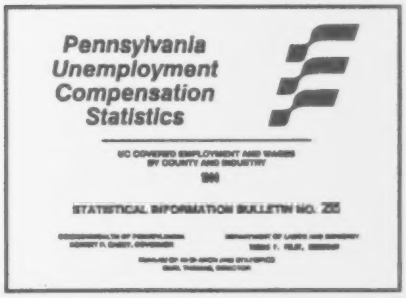
PENNSYLVANIA LABOR MARKET INFORMATION ALERT

OCTOBER 1991

Employ the power of publications containing the most detailed employment and wage data available.



Provides monthly employment, quarterly total and taxable wages and annual averages at the 3-digit industry level.



Provides annual average employment and total wages by county at the 2-digit industry level, along with comparisons to previous years.

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Please check desired publication(s) and fill in your name and address below.

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The Bureau of Research and Statistics collects, analyzes and distributes labor market information for Pennsylvania and sub-state areas.

For additional information, inquiries should be made to your local Labor Market Analyst listed on the inside front cover or:

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Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry
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